

VILLAGE OF DANSVILLE
DISSOLUTION /CO-TERMINUS STUDY
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
10-20-10

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Barry Haywood, Andre Kershner, Sandy Briggs, Dennis Mahus, Don Saylor, Nancy Conklin, Bill Dixon, Bob Smith, Rick Schwenger, Jim Wissler.

ADVISORS PRESENT: Donna Clark, Keith Petti, Rachel Scura-Lickliter, Tim Wolfanger, John Putney.

CGR : Scott Sittig, Charles Zettek and Jaime Saunders.

ALSO PRESENT:

Melvin Hussey	John Hill	Sue Hill
Ken Perry	Mary Lou Perry	Deb Rodgers
Doug Rodgers	Bette Whitenack	Dick Whitenack
Brenda Hoag	Donna Scura	John Scura
Bonnie Snyder	Tom Snyder	Jay Griffith
Dennis Gould	Al Jamison	Terry Weld
Mary Weld	Janice Jarvis	Heather Madonia
Sue Saylor	Courtney Veaut	Charles Perkins
Lisa Perkins	Dick Gillard	Johanne Gillard
Betsy Sullivan	John Sullivan	Jim Snyder
Norma Price	Diane Drum	James MacWhorter
Janice Blum	Jim Blum	Scott Kenney
Marjorie Cansdale	Kathy Joy	John Eldridge
Joan Walch	Heather Gross	Shana Burley
Mary Kay Horr	Pat Kreiley	Marian Sisson
Richard LeBar	Kip Biddle	Alan Derrenbacher
Sally Herrick	Al Herrick	Jon Van Derhoof
Liz Jackson	Dan Quibell	Mary Ann Holden
John M. York	Fred McDowell	Paul Hoffman
Jane Schryver	Tricia Griese	Kerry Ann Wood
Les Bowen	John Wise	Bethany Wise
Alice Burdick	Joe King	Greg Horr
Linda Chapman	Robin Humphrey	Matt Williams
Steve Williams	Teresa Dearing	George Weidman
L. McKinney	Al Hettrick	Gerri Waight
Eric Cox	Paul Alioto	F. Myers

The public hearing was called to order by Chairman Barry Haywood at 6:30 p.m. All members of the committee and advisors were introduced as well as the associates from CGR . Chairman Haywood welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The purpose of the public hearing was to inform the group regarding choices for the future of the community of Dansville, to communicate the preferences of the committee to the community, obtain feedback from the community on the options that have been presented and define the next steps in the process.

Scott Sittig of CGR told the group what the committee has been doing and explained the choices that evolved from the research done by the study. He stated that all information is available on CGR's website by typing in www.cgr.org/dansville. A power point presentation was shown and handouts were provided. The two options that the committee chose to present to the public were consolidation of the Town and Village into the Town OR the Village and Town forming one city. Pros and cons of each option were reviewed as well as tax impact summaries. Tax savings was difficult to predict, according to Mr. Sittig, as there are a number of variables. For example, if the Police Dept. stays as it is or if the Sheriff's Dept is contracted to take over the policing of Dansville, the cost impact is different. Whether AIM funds will always be available from the State also represents and key unknown. Key conclusions of the committee included: obtaining significant tax reductions may seriously affect current levels of service; some efficiencies can be achieved but they may only result in minimal cost savings; city status is the only option that potentially reduces taxes for all tax payers in the community (and the only way to achieve this is by assuming either preemption of sales tax or a more lucrative sales tax sharing agreement). Mr. Sittig explained the process of both consolidation into a Town and creation of a city. The next step is for the committee to meet on Oct. 27, 2010 at 5:30 p.m. to decide which of the two options, if either, to present to the Town Board and the Village Board.

The hearing was then turned back over to Chairman Haywood to facilitate the public comment portion. Chairman Haywood asked that everyone respect the comments and opinions of the speakers as they would like to be respected.

Jay Griffith stated that everyone in the Village lives in the Town and that there is only approximately 200 people that "truly" live in the Town outside the Village. He asked about city status as it related to personal income tax and also about the State highways. Mr. Sittig noted that personal income tax (PIT) is not likely to be the form of tax used in a city and the property taxes will remain the dominant revenue generator. PIT is used by NYC and it is unlikely that Dansville would use it. He stated that there is a potential to loose a lot from the County if a city status is pursued. Mr. Griffith asked Dennis Mahus how much of Town tax money is actually spent on the Village. Village residents pay 77% of the general fund Town budget. Supervisor Mahus stated that the Village uses the assessor, Town Clerk 's office, Town Hall and DPW shared services when needed.

Paul Hoffman asked who decides if a vote is elector driven or Board driven. Chairman Haywood explained that if a vote is Board driven (as this is) that the Boards will decide the option and there will be a plan in place before the vote occurs. If elector driven there will be no plan. All that is needed is petitions with 10% of elector's signatures. Mr. Hoffman asked if the school or library will be affected. He referred to the City of Rochester who is looking into taking over the school board. Superintendent of Schools, Paul Alioto, answered by saying that even if the City status is pursued, it would take several years and that the Central School could still remain. Mr. Hoffman also asked if there is a specific reason that the Police Dept. is a big issue. Chairman Haywood answered that the surveys that were returned prompted more information on dollar figures for the Police Dept. Mr. Hoffman stated that he heard a lot of ifs, maybes, and buts when Mr. Sittig was reviewing the power point. He asked if the committee was going to come up with hard figures. Mr. Sittig stated that the purpose of the study was not to come up with a formal consolidation plan but rather to look more at the feasibility of the options available to the community. He stated that if the committee decides to present the choice of consolidation, there will be a formal plan developed which will be more specific.

John Scura asked about the City status in regard to whether the cost of doing a charter, etc could be lost if the Legislature turns down the request. While that is true, Mr. Sittig explained that the State is pushing for fewer levels of government and to be creative in doing so.

Dick Fox asked what initiated the study. Mayor Dixon explained that in trying to do what is best for the community he felt it was a good idea to apply for the grant and have the study done. He felt if the Town and Village could meld together there would be a potential for growth. Mr. Sittig stated that the survey showed that many of those who responded were in favor the merging or sharing services. Mr. Fox stated that if money is saved for the Village, the Town will pay, and if the State gives us more money, that State money is our money.

Sheriff John York spoke. He stated the many services that the county provides. He stated that Dansville needs to look at what is affordable and that consolidation is an absolute necessity. Mr. Sittig explained that if the Village and Town go for city status, city residents would still pay a County tax and would still be a part of the County.

Jon VanDerhoof asked what kind of law enforcement will the Village receive if there is no longer a local police force. Sheriff York asked to speak. He wanted to clarify that he does not and will not suggest that the Village give up it's police force. He stated that he was asked by the Town Board and the Village Board to present a proposal for the Sheriff's Dept to police Dansville. He explained that there would be Sheriff's on duty to patrol Dansville. He explained that he would

need to hire more officers to do this and that the enhancement of his Department would come with a cost to Dansville taxpayers.

Paul Hoffman thanked the committee and asked if there are any time pressures. Mr. Sittig explained that while CGR's involvement in the process would end, the committee could continue to study the issues.

Dick Gillard stated that he feels the atmosphere is right among the State to consolidate and he would like to see it go to a vote.

With no further comments or questions, Chairman Haywood thanked everyone for coming and for their interest. The public hearing was closed at 8:15 p.m.

Donna Clark